



## Read This First, Coach!

*The first-grade teacher told Tony's mom that he might never learn to read. Understandably, Mom was shocked. I showed her how to play Better Letters! games. Within fifteen weeks, Tony sounded out new words like, "pig" and "frog." His teacher was amazed!*

### For young, "newbie" readers:

- Wait until he or she is preschool-age to begin these alphabet games.
- DO NOT use a pencil or other writing tool! Preschool fingers are not ready to grip pencils correctly. Instead, help your child trace each alphabet letter with the pointer finger, of his or her dominant hand.
- Start with about 5 games. Play each game for 3-5 minutes. Gradually add games until your kiddo is playing for 15-20 minutes each day. Review automated letters, but focus on learning new letters. Keep it fun.

### For older, struggling readers:

- Do the same steps as above, but build up this set of games to total **thirty** minutes of play every day. Still, keep it fun.

### For every reader:

- The best brain learning occurs when you play every day. Just as with physical muscles, daily practice really strengthens your child's "brain muscles."
- Spend extra practice time on the "tricky" letters: b's, d's, short vowels, and any others your child finds challenging. Have your child practice until these letter sounds are accurate, easy, and rapid.
- **Remember, keep each daily practice FUN!** A happy brain learns faster. Your child loves to feel success, so celebrate each game he completes.



Brains *require* daily practice for learning!